

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sterilizer/disinfector for sterilizing or disinfecting an object, comprising:

a housing;

a light source disposed within the housing;

a light seal to block light output from the light source from exiting the housing, wherein the object forms part of the light seal; and

a light seal detector, triggered ~~only~~ when the light seal detector has directly detected completion of the light seal to a certain degree, to enable light to be output from the light source.

2. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light source emits ultraviolet light.

3. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light output has a duration of less than 10 milliseconds.

4. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light source is a flash lamp.

5. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light output is pulsed.

6 – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A sterilizer/disinfector, comprising:

a housing;

a flash lamp disposed within the housing; and

one or more vanes each attached to the housing at a pivot point and rotatable about the pivot point, for actuating the flash lamp and blocking light emitted by the flash lamp from exiting the housing.

12. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 11, further comprising a hinged door at each of an entry point and exit point of the housing.

13 – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A sterilizer/disinfector for sterilizing or disinfecting an object, comprising:

a housing; and

two or more vanes pivotally mounted to the housing, wherein a first vane of the two or more vanes comprises a first notch and a second vane of the two or more vanes comprises a second notch;

wherein the vanes are constructed and arranged to interface such that when the first vane is moved in a clockwise direction and the second vane is moved in a counterclockwise direction, the vanes are moved into a position in which at least the first and second notches adjoin to form a light-tight seal around the object ~~enclose a portion of the object~~ during sterilization or disinfection.

19 – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

a housing having an opening for at least partially receiving an object;

at least one movable member, attached to the housing, the at least one movable member movable between an open position and a closed position;

an ultraviolet light source within the housing; and

a detector that detects at least one of: (1) a degree of light sealing of the housing caused at least in part by the movable member, (2) the movable member being in the closed position, and (3) an object being located in a certain position at least partially within the housing;

wherein, when the object is placed at least partially within the housing, the movable member is in the closed position, and the detector detects the at least one of (1) a degree of light sealing of the housing caused at least in part by the movable member, (2) the movable member being in the

closed position, and (3) an object being located in a certain position at least partially within the housing, then the ultraviolet light source emits ultraviolet radiation to sterilize or disinfect the object; and

wherein the movable member is constructed and arranged to move to the closed position automatically upon placing an object at least partially within the opening of the housing.

24. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the movable member is constructed and arranged to move to the closed position in response to an object moving against the movable member as the movable member is moved to the closed position.

25. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a housing having an opening for at least partially receiving an object to be sterilized or disinfected;

at least one movable member movable between an open position and a closed position, wherein the at least one movable member is constructed and arranged to move between the open position and the closed position in response to the object exerting a force on the at least one movable member when the object is at least received within the opening ~~the movable member being attached to the housing in both the open position and the closed position;~~

an ultraviolet light source within the housing; and

an actuator that prevents the ultraviolet light source from emitting ultraviolet radiation until at least one detector detects that an object is placed at least partially within the opening of the housing and the movable member is in its closed position.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 26, further comprising a light seal to substantially block light output from the light source from exiting the housing.

28 – 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) A sterilizer/disinfector for sterilizing or disinfecting an object, comprising:

- a housing having an interior and an exterior;
- an ultraviolet light source disposed within the housing;
- a light seal to block light output from the ultraviolet light source from exiting the housing, wherein the object forms part of the light seal;
- a light detector, constructed and arranged to detect a level of external light that has entered the housing from the exterior; and
- an actuator to enable light to be output from the ultraviolet light source, the actuator being triggered, at least in part, by the level of external light detected by the light detector.

49. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 25, wherein the at least one movable member is constructed and arranged to be moved from the open position to the closed position as the object is placed at least partially within the opening of the housing.

50. (Previously Presented) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 11, wherein each of the one or more vanes is rotatable about the pivot point in a plane parallel to the housing.

51. (Previously Presented) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 11, wherein each of the one or more vanes is constructed and arranged to rotate about the pivot point in response to motion of an object to be sterilized or disinfected with respect to the vane.

52. (New) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 11, wherein the one or more vanes are operatively coupled to the flash lamp via a triggering mechanism that is adapted to trigger the flash lamp based on the mechanical position of the one or more vanes.